

Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety to authorized to meet for a hearing on National Institutes of Health Reauthorization during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, 1997, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "Defense Consolidation: Antitrust and Competition Issues."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, July 24, at 9:45 a.m., hearing room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on H.R. 858 and S. 1028, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quinby Library Group and to amend current land and resource management.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, for purposes of con-

ducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to review the process by which the National Park Service determines the suitability and feasibility of new areas to be added to the National Park System, and to examine the criteria used to determine national significance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Securities of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 24, 1997, to conduct an oversight hearing on securities litigation abuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VETERANS' BENEFITS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise to commend the members of the Subcommittee on VA/HUD Appropriations for their work to provide adequate benefits to veterans. In a letter to the Chairman, I urged the subcommittee to support a level of spending that adequately funded veterans' benefits in rightful recognition of their efforts to defend our country in war. I am pleased to learn that the VA will get a full appropriation which shows a total budget increase of \$222.6 million above last year and \$92.9 million above the President's request.

I also applaud their foresight in voting \$68 million additional funding over the President's request for the medical care account. The high priority which the subcommittee placed on this area reflects the heightened concern the country feels for providing appropriate health care to those who have served us so well.

The mandatory spending has also been increased by \$1.26 billion over last year for pensions and compensation.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the subcommittee has included a provision which will allow the VA to retain third-party collections, which I have long supported, in addition to the regular appropriation. This additional estimated \$604 million will be retained by the VA medical centers giving the care. This will provide much needed additional revenue which should allow the centers to treat more veterans. It will also provide an incentive to improve health care for more veterans at each of the 171 facilities throughout the country.

The committee report supports the restructuring efforts of the Veterans Health Administration; I will be interested to see the results of this effort over the next 5 years as this, too, will improve health care for our veterans. I also share the subcommittee's concerns that the VA has yet to develop a nationwide plan for community-based outpatient clinics to ensure equitable

access to medical care nationwide. We will be seeing great changes at the VA in the next few years that will make it a more streamlined and improved provider of services to veterans.

Again, I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their efforts to help America's veterans.

#### PROGRESS FOR WOMEN'S ATHLETICS IN WEST VIRGINIA

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I want to reflect on the positive results of our country's growing commitment to equal opportunities for women in college sports and to the elimination of discrimination in our Nation's educational programs. During this time of commemorating the 25th anniversary of title IX, Americans recognize the success of our Nation's athletes as they continue to grow both on the field and in the classroom.

I take this opportunity to commend the achievement of women in college and university sports and to support their advancement in the athletic world. Expanded opportunities for women as a result of title IX have enabled more young women from all arenas to challenge themselves and each other, develop the competitive spirit, and truly enrich their academic lives.

In West Virginia, title IX's impact on college and university sports is made clear by the success of their women's athletic programs. It pleases me to see the competitive spirit grow within West Virginia and to include the aspirations of our daughters as well as our sons. I am proud to commend our individual athletes who deserve praise for their constant and persistent efforts.

Over the past years, West Virginia's fine institutions that include, to cite just one example, Bluefield State College, in Bluefield, WV, have given scholarship money that significantly increased participation in women's athletics. Alderson-Broaddus College in Phillippi, WV, in this past year alone has had an award-winning WVIAC women's softball team, with players like Laura Granger, who balances a competitive sports schedule, her honors GPA, and her enrollment in a difficult sports medicine program.

At the University of Charleston [UC], the Golden Eagles Volleyball Team compiled an impressive 29-4 record in 1996 and continues to strive toward success. UC's basketball team is also on the high rise with athletes like Jodie Prenger, who plays Division II basketball and spends the rest of her time devoted to academics.

With a devotion to the team and to their own growth as individuals, these women athletes will provide role models for our future daughters. I can see how perseverance learned in athletics contributes to the academic lives of these high-achieving students.

I am pleased to hear of the progress we as a State have made by supporting greater opportunities for women in sports, and I want to continue to honor